



September 30, 2015

Ald. Terry L. Witkowski
(414) 286-2883

MEDIA ADVISORY

News conference: Ald. Witkowski to raise safety concerns with school bus proposal

In response to colleagues' proposed legislation that would require school buses to deploy stop arms and flashing red lights when children are boarding or exiting, **Public Safety Committee chair Terry L. Witkowski will hold a news conference this afternoon** to outline his concerns with the proposal.

State law allows individual municipalities to determine whether bus drivers are required to deploy stop arms and flashing red lights when children are boarding or exiting buses. For decades, the City of Milwaukee has adhered to the practice of requiring children to wait until the bus has pulled away to cross the street, in order to ensure they have a clear view of the road. Buses do not deploy stop arms and red lights, and other motorists are not required by law to stop and wait until the bus pulls away.

"Requiring traffic to stop while a bus unloads kids may be a popular policy, but reports show that it may not make kids safer—and it might even expose them to more danger," Alderman Witkowski said. "News reports show that some drivers blow past those stop arms, and children have even been killed. Before we go and implement this new policy, more examination is needed."

The proposed change is scheduled to come up before the Public Safety Committee at its regular meeting tomorrow, October 1 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 301-B of City Hall.

"In neighborhoods where stop signs and traffic lights are viewed as 'optional' by some drivers, expecting those drivers to stop and wait for a school bus could spell disaster for kids," Alderman Witkowski said.

What: Ald. Witkowski news conference

When: TODAY, September 30 at 2:30 p.m.

**Where: Common Council antechamber
3rd floor of City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.**

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